

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 180597 TOSEC 080036
ORIGIN AF-10

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 180597 TOSEC 080036

FROM MOOSE TO HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, CD, OVIP

SUBJECT: AID TO CHAD

REF: SECTO 8006

1. REALISTICALLY, WE CAN DO VERY LITTLE FOR CHAD IN
EITHER MILITARY OR ECONOMIC AID IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

2. THE PRINCIPAL CONSTRAINTS IN MILITARY AID ARE THE
PROVISIONS IN OUR OWN LEGISLATION AND THE FACT THAT CHAD
HAS NO MONEY. GRANT ASSISTANCE WOULD REQUIRE SPECIFIC
CONGRESSIONAL AUTHORIZATION, AND FOR PRACTICAL PURPOSES
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PAGE 02 STATE 180597 TOSEC 080036

IS OUT OF THE QUESTION. CHAD IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR FOREIGN
MILITARY SALES (FMS), BUT WE ARE PREPARING A DRAFT PRESI-
DENTIAL DETERMINATION THAT SALES OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND
SERVICES TO CHAD UNDER FMS WILL STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY
OF THE US AND PROMOTE WORLD PEACE. SUCH A DETERMINATION
IS A CONDITION OF FMS ELIGIBILITY. UNDER PRESENT CIRCUM-
STANCES, THE ONLY WAY CHAD CAN OBTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT

FROM THE US IS TO BUY IT FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES. CHAD'S FOREIGN MINISTER IS ABOUT TO LEAVE FOR JIDDA, AND PRESUMABLY WILL REQUEST FINANCING TO PURCHASE MILITARY EQUIPMENT. IF THE PRESIDENT WERE TO DETERMINE THAT CHAD IS ELIGIBLE FOR FMS, CHAD COULD PURCHASE THROUGH DOD BUT

WOULD STILL REQUIRE FINANCING. CHAD IS NOT INTERESTED IN CREDIT, EXCEPT ON THE MOST FAVORABLE TERMS. IF CHAD WERE FMS ELIGIBLE, AND WE WERE ABLE TO REPROGRAM FY 77 FUNDS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FMS CREDITS FOR CHAD. WE ARE ASKING PM TO LOOK INTO THIS POSSIBILITY. I UNDERSTAND THERE IS ALREADY QUITE A LIST OF CLAIMANTS, INCLUDING LEBANON AND TUNISIA.

3. CHAD COULD OBTAIN US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT THROUGH TRANSFERS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. CHAD HAS APPROACHED ZAIRE, GABON, MOROCCO, EGYPT AND SUDAN AND WILL RAISE THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND PERHAPS JORDAN. (FYI: GABON HAS DECLINED TO PROVIDE FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO CHAD BECAUSE PRESIDENT BONGO IS NOW PRESIDENT OF OAU. EGYPT HAS NO US ORIGIN LETHAL EQUIPMENT AND LITTLE IF ANYTHING ELSE FROM US WHICH WOULD HELP CHADIANS.) TRANSFERS OF US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT/SERVICES TO A COUNTRY THAT IS NOT FMS ELIGIBLE, SUCH AS CHAD, REQUIRE A DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY THAT THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO TRANSFER THE EQUIPMENT IN QUESTION DIRECTLY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 STATE 180597 TOSEC 080036

TO CHAD, AND THAT THE PROPOSED TRANSFERS WILL STRENGTHEN THE SECURITY OF THE US AND PROMOTE WORLD PEACE. FURTHERMORE, BEFORE TRANSFERS OF FMS ORIGIN ITEMS ARE APPROVED, CONGRESS MUST BE NOTIFIED 30 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE.

4. INCREASING OUR ECONOMIC AID TO CHAD IN THE SHORT-RUN WILL BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT. WE HAVE A PL-480 TITLE II PROGRAM DESIGNED TO MAKE UP SHORTFALLS IN LAST YEAR'S HARVEST. THIS PROGRAM IS VALUED AT 7 MILLION DOLS, ABOUT HALF OF WHICH IS THE VALUE OF THE COMMODITIES AND ABOUT HALF THE COST OF TRANSPORTING IT TO CHAD. CHAD HAS REQUESTED, AS PART OF ITS MILITARY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE, 50 TONS OF RICE BUT WE CANNOT PROVIDE THIS UNDER PL-480 BECAUSE PL-480 CANNOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM IN THE PRESENT PL-480 PROGRAM HAS BEEN A BOTTLENECK AT THE RAILHEAD IN CAMEROON (N'GAOUNDERE) WHICH HAS NOW BEEN BROKEN. CHAD HAD REQUESTED AN AIRLIFT TO DISTRIBUTE FOOD WITHIN CHAD, WHICH WE TURNED DOWN BECAUSE IT WAS NOT, AND IS NOT NOW, NECESSARY. AN AIRLIFT AT THIS POINT WOULD BE A DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION OF OUR SUPPORT FOR CHAD, BUT WOULD ALSO BE EXPENSIVE AND UN-

NECESSARY, AND WOULD NOT DIRECTLY ASSIST CHAD IN MAINTAINING ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

5. OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 77 AMOUNTS TO ABOUT 4 MILLION DOLS, CHIEFLY DEVOTED TO INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION OVER THE LONG-RUN. IT WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCELERATE ANY PLANS NOW IN PREPARATION TO INCREASE THIS ASSISTANCE.

6. IN SUM, SUBJECT TO OUR READINESS TO TAKE NECESSARY POLICY DECISIONS, FOR THE TIME BEING THE BEST ADVICE WE CAN GIVE CHAD IS TO SOLICIT FINANCING FROM COUNTRIES SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO BUY MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE US OR ELSEWHERE THROUGH COMMERCIAL CHANNELS. A SOMEWHAT MORE LENGTHY AND COMPLEX PROCEDURE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 180597 TOSEC 080036

WOULD BE TO SOLICIT SUCH TRANSFERS OF US ORIGIN EQUIPMENT FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS US WOULD AGREE TO.

7. SADAT MAY RAISE WITH YOU THE POSSIBILITY OF REPLACING MILITARY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING SMALL ARMS, WHICH ARE NOT OF US ORIGIN, TO CHAD. PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION ON ARMS FOR EGYPT HAS NOW BEEN SIGNED. WE COULD CONSIDER PROVIDING EGYPT WITH REPLACEMENTS FOR SUCH EQUIPMENT. HOWEVER, THIS WOULD REQUIRE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS AND COULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON OUR "NON-LETHAL" PACKAGE ON THE HILL.

8. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON ASSISTANCE TO CHAD, WE HAVE FOUND VERY LITTLE SUPPORT FOR A MEETING OF POTENTIAL DONORS. THE FRENCH HAVE SUGGESTED A CONCERTATION OF ASSISTANCE THROUGH A SERIES OF BILATERAL CONTACTS. BELGIUM AND THE FRG MAY BE POSSIBLE SOURCES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, BUT ARE UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE CHAD WITH ANY MILITARY ASSISTANCE. ALSO, IT APPEARS THAT MOROCCO AND THE SUDAN, THOUGH SYMPATHETIC TO CHAD, MAY ONLY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE AT THE MOST VERY LITTLE MILITARY ASSISTANCE SUCH AS SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION. EMBASSY JIDDA BELIEVES SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE FINANCIALLY IN A MULTILATERAL EFFORT. EMBASSY TEHRAN BELIEVES IRAN WOULD NOT FINANCE CHADIAN ARMS PURCHASES, BUT MIGHT CONTRIBUTE TO COMMON POOL INTENDED TO ASSIST CHAD ECONOMICALLY. SAUDI ARABIA, IRAN AND POSSIBLY JORDAN COULD BE SOURCES OF THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFERS. AT THE MOMENT FRANCE IS PROVIDING CHAD WITH LOGISTICAL EQUIPMENT SUPPORT AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. EGYPT IS GIVING SMALL ARMS, AMMUNITION, AND SPARE PARTS. GABON HAS PROVIDED AN AIRCRAFT BUT, AS NOTED, GABON HAS DECLINED TO PROVIDE MORE ASSISTANCE.
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PAGE 05 STATE 180597 TOSEC 080036

9. AS TO POSSIBLE SAUDI FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, SECRETARY
MAY WISH TO RAISE TOPIC DURING HIS MEETINGS IN JIDDA.

10. IN SUM, AS SOON AS CHAD CAN FIND A SOURCE OF
FINANCING SOME NON-LETHAL EQUIPMENT (E.G., UNIFORMS,
RATIONS) BE MADE AVAILABLE FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES IN A
MATTER OF THREE TO FOUR WEEKS. DELIVERY WOULD PROBABLY
ALSO REQUIRE FINANCING. CHRISTOPHER

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